

NAMED AWARDS

The **Ruth C. Ellis Herstory Award** is named in honor of the oldest known "out" African-American lesbian. Born July 23, 1899 in Springfield, Illinois, Ellis is the subject of a one hour documentary by filmmaker Yvonne Welbon: "Living With Pride: Ruth C. Ellis @ 100. Ellis has resided in Detroit, Michigan since 1937 where she operated her own business, "Ellis and Franklin Printing Company." In Detroit, Michigan, the African American Lesbians Organized to Renew Dignity and Empowerment (the A. LORDE Collective) is planning to create a shelter for Gay youths and name it "The Ruth Ellis Center."

The **Joan P. Garner Social Change Award** is named in honor of the Executive Director of the Southern Partners Fund located in Atlanta. Garner, a native of Washington, D.C., has served as Executive Director of the Fund for Southern Communities and chair of the board of directors of the Funding Exchange. Garner has a long history of involvement in social change philanthropy.

The **Catherine E. McKinley Journalism Award** is named in honor of the author of *THE BOOK OF SARAHS*, (William Morrow, forthcoming in 2000) and co-editor of *AFREKETE* (Anchor Books/Doubleday, 1995), the first published collection of writings by Black lesbians. McKinley, a native of Attleboro, Massachusetts, now lives in New York City, and serves as the Associate Director of the Publishing Certificate Program at City College of New York. She is the recipient of a Fulbright Student Scholarship in Ghana for the 1999-2000 academic year.

The **Kathleen E. Morris Creative Writing Award** is named in honor of the author of *SPEAKING IN WHISPERS*, *AFRICAN-AMERICAN LESBIAN EROTICA*. Morris' writing has also appeared in *Best Lesbian Erotica* in 1997 and several magazines, including *Venus*, *Women In The Life* and *Mosaic Magazine*. Morris, a native of Mt. Vernon, NY, now living in Boston also facilitates "The Erotica Pen," a national writing workshop series designed to encourage wimmin in the discovery of their creative and sensual powers through the art of writing.

The **Iris F. Rafi Women's Studies Award** is named for one of the co-founders of ZAMI. Dr. Rafi, a native of Miami, Florida, studied Caribbean Women's literature and cross-cultural Black Women's studies at Emory University. She is a former professor of literature at Spelman College and Clark Atlanta University and is currently teaching at Morris Brown College in Atlanta.

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The **Jocelyn E. Taylor Filmmaking Award** is named for a prominent independent video artist whose work has been internationally exhibited, including at the 1997 Johannesburg Biennial, South Africa; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; the Whitney Museum of American Art; Deitch Projects in New York and the Museum of Belles Artes, Caracas. Taylor, a native of Washington, D.C. now living in New York City has produced and directed numerous provocative videos about Black lesbians.

The **Sherry Turner Creative Arts Award** is named for a developmental psychologist whose research and teaching focus on the socialization of African American women and girls. As an ordained minister, Dr. Turner is committed to fighting against racism, sexism, and homophobia. As an artist, she depicts positive images of African American women and girls and explores themes of self-acceptance, community and spirituality. A native of Memphis, Tennessee, Dr. Turner teaches and lives in Amherst, Massachusetts.

